

THE MINT MASTER

Volume 59, Issue4

April 2013

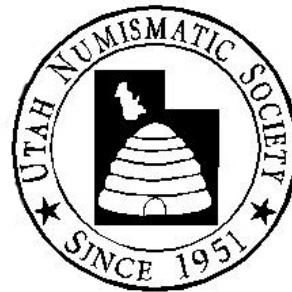
PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

Hello everyone!

We had a great meeting last month where we discussed grading. Several members participated in bringing a favorite coin to grade against the experts or to just have their coin graded. David took one coin to three different experts and all gave a different grade. Many may wonder about this but it is not an uncommon occurrence. There are many nuances with grading which can be perceived differently and you can always be surprised by the results. This was a very good evening and was very enjoyable. Thanks to all who attended and participated. March has been a fast month and I have been very busy however, I still was able to build on my collection through change found in a variety of sources. I have a credit union which looks out for me and they contacted me with a large sum of

coins I collect. I was unable to get these as I am low on funds so I mentioned this to my brother who was able to go and get all the coins I had been notified of. Within this stash he found several rolls of silver halves including a Ben Franklin and a Walking Liberty. This was definitely a great find for him.

As a result of such good favor Collin was able to help me fill about ten holes in my collection through a bit of trading and some small amount of cash. I mention this because if we are aware of needs for other members and opportunity presents itself we can be very helpful in assisting others to work on or even finish their collections and it makes our hobby that much more enjoyable for all of us when we share.



April is the month we vote on our medal design for the year so if you haven't crafted a design yet it is time to get busy. Bring your designs to our meeting and be prepared to talk about your design and it's importance for Utah. Last year we had several very nice designs and some great thought concerning them and their importance. Let's have a great turn out and see many of your designs. See you all on the 9th!
Robie Cagle
President

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February

- Greetings -
Robie Cagle
- Mini Exhibit
Phil Clark
- News & Views
Phil Clark
- Spotlight
TBA
- Refreshments
Eliza Finnegan
- Coin Quiz
Larry Kimura

PROGRAM FOR APRIL—MEDALS/CURRENCY

This month we will pick what will appear on our UNS Club medal for 2013. Please bring your ideas, drawing and whatever you can put together. Who

knows, you may be the next designer of a coin!

Secondly, we will be discussing currency as the subject of this

months meeting. Bring your question, special items, and be prepared to take part in a lively discussion regarding currency. See you APRIL 9th !!!

DO YOU KNOW WHAT THE NUMBERS MEAN

There are small numbers on the currency in your pocket. Do you know what these numbers mean? The small numbers which are the subject of this study are identified on the picture at right as 'Plate serial number' and 'Note number position.' The afore mentioned appears on both the front and the back while the Plate serial number is only on the front. Examples of the Plate serial number on the front appear as -

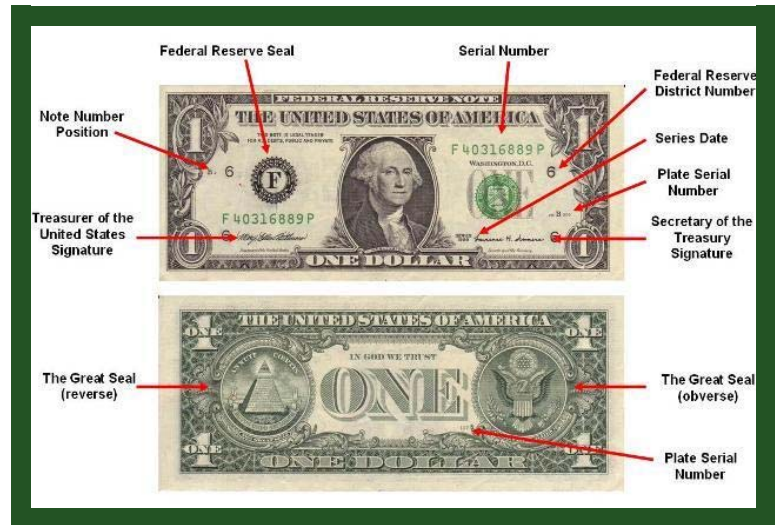
FWC49 or simply as C49

What do these numbers indicate? First, historically all U.S. currency was printed at the Bureau of Engraving and Printing in Washington DC but due to concerns of terrorism or disaster and there being only one facility producing our money the Fort Worth Texas facility opened in 1990. To identify currency printed at either Fort Worth or Washington, similar to mint marks, a FW was added to the Plate serial number as a prefix. If there is no FW then the note was printed in Washington DC. The larger letter indicates quadrant of the 32 subject sheet printed along with the Note number position letters. There are 4 quadrants 1A,2B,3C,&4D as noted on the chart to the right. So, the Plate Serial number shows as an example of -

C3 or D1 ect..

This indicates where the notes position was before the 32 subject sheet was cut apart. The "C" also corresponds to the C in the Plate serial number. Finally the small digits to the right of the letter in the plate serial number indicate the serial number of the actual printing plate, usually one, two, or three digits. I cannot recall ever seeing a 4-digit face plate serial number.

So in summation the C3 or note position number indicate where the notes position was. The FWC49 indicate that the note was printed in Fort Worth Texas, again it came from the C



quadrant of the sheet and was printed by face plate number 49. Finally, the plate serial number on the back of the note is just a group of 1 to 4 numbers. (I have seen a 4-digit number here) indicate the serial number of the back plate which printed the note.

| | | | |
|----|----|----|----|
| A1 | E1 | A3 | E3 |
| B1 | F1 | B3 | F3 |
| C1 | G1 | C3 | B3 |
| D1 | H1 | D3 | H3 |
| A2 | E2 | A4 | E4 |
| B2 | F2 | B4 | F4 |
| C2 | G2 | C4 | G4 |
| D2 | H2 | D4 | H4 |

One of the main reasons for having all these numbers is to identify where a problem note came from. Most likely if there is an engraving or printing problem with a note it does not encompass the entire 32-note sheet, therefore inspection and possible correction or removal of the problem plate is made much easier.

Other numbers such as the '6' and 'F' indicate the Federal Reserve Bank. 1 thru 12 or A thru L. The letters being the first 12 letters of the alphabet. Other than the \$1 notes all current notes simply indicate this by 'G7' or other Letter/Number combination near the serial number.

Doug Nyholm

ITEM OF THE MONTH / BANKING HISTORY

This truly is a unique pair of items. First is a Bank of Monroe \$2 note hand-signed by Oliver Cowdery. The note is dated Sept. 1, 1836. The Mormon Church announced the purchase of the bank on January 31st, 1837. The explanation of this is complex but is typical of the issuance of currency by many banks in the 1830's. Cowdery's signature appears on Monroe banknotes beginning in Sept. of 1836 through July of 1837. It has been reported that Oliver Cowdery was still residing in Kirtland Ohio as of January 1st of 1837. It has also been speculated that Cowdery may have been active with the bank prior to 1837 but this is doubtful. Research indicates that banks of the era issued their banknotes sometimes with as many as three different color inks validating the notes. Notes exist for Kirtland with the serial number written with one color of ink, the signatures written with a different ink or color, and the date issued with a third. Kirtland, Monroe and other period banks often experienced problems with the time it took to issue a large number of notes therefore many notes were serialized and/or dated prior to issuance. Then when they were needed they were signed and issued, also on some banknotes as in the case of Monroe and Kirtland they were made out similar to a check today by writing the name of the person it was issued to on the note. Therefore when Oliver Cowdery arrived to assume the position of president of the Church in January 1837 many notes on hand most likely had been previously dated and only his signature was required. This cannot be 100% proven but it seems like the only logical assumption.

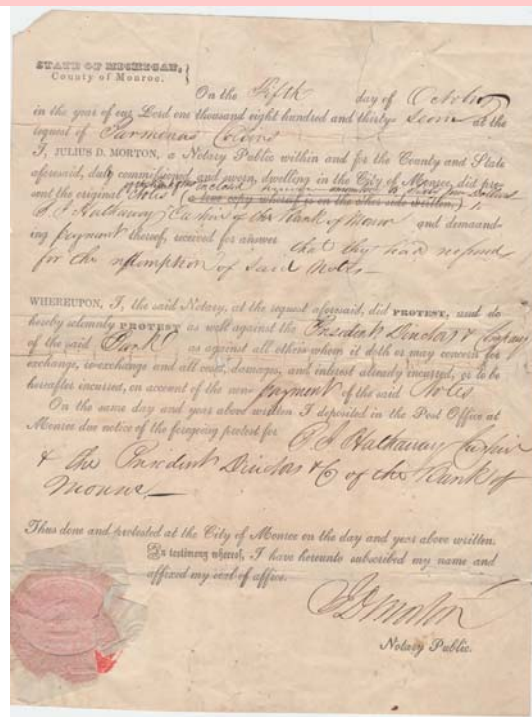
Now as to the second part of this lot, this is a companion



document regarding legal action taken against

the Bank of Monroe for non-payment or refusal to redeem its banknotes. Both this note and letter have been together through several collectors going back to a Dr. Lee who resided in Monroe Michigan in the mid-1800's. This note may very likely be a remnant of the currency mentioned in this document which was refused payment by the Bank of Monroe. The letter, intact but with several repairs, is a very historical document regarding the banking practices of many banks of the era. Surely there were many similar documents accusing many broken banks of the era which have not survived the test of time

Doug Nyholm



State of Michigan,
County of Monroe.

On the 5th day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty seven at the request of Farmanas Collins, I, Julius D. Morton, a Notary Public within and for the County and State aforesaid, duly commissioned and sworn, dwelling in the City of Monroe, did present the original Notes of this Bank of Monroe inclosed herein amounting to Sixty four Dollars to B. J. Hathaway Cashier of the Bank of Monroe and demanding payment thereof, received for answer that they had no funds for the redemption of said notes.

Whereupon, I, the said Notary, at the request aforesaid, did PROTEST, and to hereby solemnly PROTEST as well against the President, Director and Company of the said Bank as against all others whom it doth or may concern for exchange, re-exchange and all costs, damages, and interest already incurred, or to be hereafter incurred, on account of the non-payment of the said Notes.

On the same day and year above written I deposited in the Post Office at Monroe due notice of the foregoing protest for B. J. Hathaway Cashier and the President Director and Co. of the Bank of Monroe.

Thus done and protested at the City of Monroe on the day and year above written.

In testimony whereof, I have hereunto subscribed my name and affixed my seal of office.

J. D. Morton
Notary Public

COUNTERFEIT CORNER

ANYBODY CAN DETECT A COUNTERFEIT COIN?

I have searched the internet for articles about counterfeit coins and have seen many articles by both experts and novices. One which struck my interest was entitled "Anyone can detect a counterfeit coin" just use these 5 easy rules. Use a magnet, a gram scale, a caliper, a loop, and reference information. These are all very useful tools and definitely can aid in the detection of counterfeits. A simple magnet will easily identify the most crude counterfeits including the infamous copper plated 1943 zinc penny but these could probably be identified at arms length even without a magnet. A gram scale is also indispensable in detecting crudely made off weight fakes. A large majority of these come from China or in the case of gold many come from the mid-east or other areas. A caliper can also be a useful tool however it is one which I carry but very seldom use. By the time either a magnet, visual inspection or weight haven't given the fake away there are other resources usually better than a caliper. True, some fakes are of incorrect size but in the case of earlier non-collar struck coins this tool becomes useless. A loop, alongside knowledge and a handy reference are probably your best bet for determining if a coin is counterfeit, or altered. So now you have used all these tools, cannot find anything wrong with the coin but are still wondering if the coin you are examining may be a fake. What do you do? This is becoming the new \$64 thousand dollar question. I have discussed and we have all seen in recent months the articles regarding fake bullion entering the market and just how good these are. At the recent Baltimore coin show I had the opportunity to examine the Englehard counterfeit silver rounds recently seen in the news. Side by side it is relatively easy to determine the fake. The strike is weaker, especially on the reverse and the weight is slightly off. My worry is, what if someone offers you 100 silver rounds and has sprinkled them with a few of these fakes. No one I know, dealer or investor, is going to place all 100 coins on a gram scale or inspect them with a loop. So you just purchased 90 ounces of silver with 10 fakes and there goes any profit and most likely you have now suffered a loss. I believe this problem not only with bullion but imported counterfeits of rare or scarce dates is escalating and we must all be much more diligent than we have been in the past. If you are not buying from a known reputable dealer or buying on-line be extra careful. It is a horrible feeling to find out after the fact that you have been taken.

Doug Nyholm

REMINDER ABOUT UNS MEMBERSHIP FROM ROBIE CAGLE

As a reminder; Please seek out former members, inactive Lifetime Members and newly interested Numismatists. Let's increase our numbers and share our dedication to our hobby with them, and our desire for all who are interested to have fun and enjoy our hobby. Take opportunity to talk to others about our club, many would be interested if they were only aware so please be active in helping others find us.

QUIZ

1. Which coin has the lowest mintage?

| | |
|-------------------|------------------|
| A. 1919 Quarter | B. 1950-D Nickel |
| C. 1937-S Quarter | D. 1931-S Dime |
2. Which Coin were made in 4 different types?

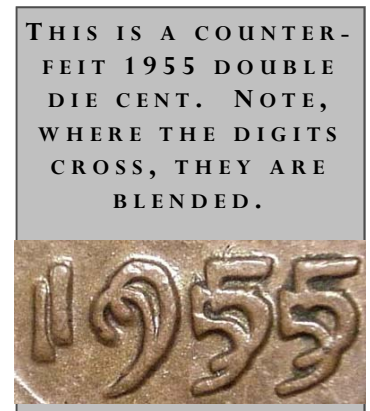
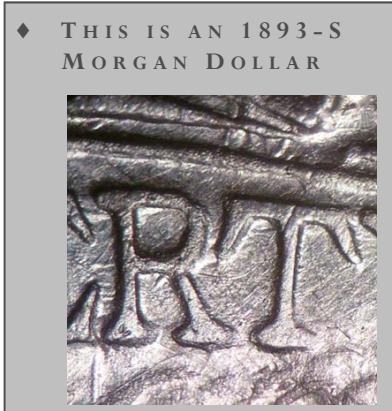
| | |
|------------------------|-----------------------|
| A. Kennedy Half Dollar | B. Washington Quarter |
| C. Lincoln Cent | D. Eisenhower Dollar |
3. How many overdates are listed in the Red Book for coins of the 20th Century?

| | |
|------|------|
| A. 4 | B. 5 |
| C. 6 | D. 7 |

BONUS—CAN YOU NAME THEM?
4. How many mints struck coins in the United States?

| | |
|------|------|
| A. 5 | B. 6 |
| C. 7 | D. 8 |
5. In how many different years were Oregon Trail Commemorative halves struck?

| | |
|------|------|
| A. 6 | B. 7 |
| C. 8 | D. 9 |



UNS 2013 SCHEDULE

April

Medals Voting / Currency Night

May

UNS Birthday / Club Bourse

June

Youth Night (Details TBA)

July

UNS Picnic

August

Secret Service Speaker / Currency

September

Club Auction

October

Presentation / Cherry Picking / Nyholm

November

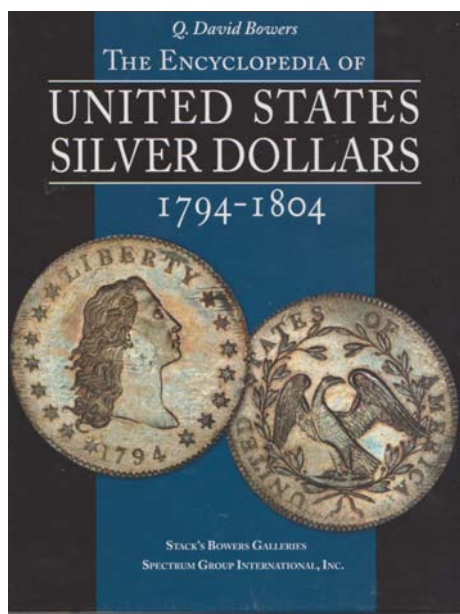
Elections / Club Bourse

December

Christmas Dinner

BOOK REVIEW /

This is a brand new book just off the press! It was offered for the first time at the recent Baltimore coin show where I picked up my copy. Q. David Bowers was present to autograph copies. This book is hardcover consisting of 343 pages and is 8 1/2x 11 in format. The book contains color photos of virtually all known varieties of dollars minted during this time period. Pictured on the front cover is the recently auctioned \$10 million coin which is also discussed within the book. Introductory chapters include topics such as historical background, aspects of collecting early dollars, rarity in relation to price and characteristics of early dollars and their dies. Following this is a date by date analysis of each 'BB' variety known for each date. Notable specimens are discussed as well as estimated surviving populations by grade. The well known rarity scale of R1



to R8 however is not used as Bowers devised scale of URS-0 to URS-14 is utilized. As you may be more familiar with the

R1-R8 scale, R1 being most common and R8 being unique Bowers has devised a scale called the 'Universal Rarity Scale.' URS-0 indicated unknown while URS-14 is the most common. Roughly, beginning with URS-1 each subsequent is a geometric progression of number known such as 2,4,8,16,32,64 etc. It takes a bit to get used to but in actuality makes sense. Back to the details of the book each die state is given detailed information and individual rarity. One item I really appreciate about Bowers books is included in this book. At the end of each year he gives a discussion of what occurred during the year. It brings history combined with coinage together in a very nice manner. As with most of Bowers books, I do recommend this one and it will make enjoyable reading.

Doug. Nyholm

COIN SHOW THIS FRIDAY AND SATURDAY IN LAYTON

Don't forget to attend the 41st Annual Northern Utah Coin Show this Friday & Saturday. This show was previously held in Ogden at the Marriott but the location has changed to Davis Conference Center in Layton. There is a

copy of the flyer on the last page of this newsletter. This is shaping up to be a great show with a sold out bourse and many displays from club members.

Also on display will be one of the finest groupings of "Mormon" currency ever assembled which will be auctioned by Holabird-Kagin Americana later in April.

See you there!

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Eurekacoins@gmail.com

PRIZES & BUY OF THE MONTH / APRIL



DRAWING

TBA

BUY OF THE MONTH

TBA

PROMPTNESS—

MEMBERSHIP -

JUNIOR -

I did not receive information for prizes and buy of the month in time for press. Don't worry however, there will be another group of great prizes.



CLUB OFFICERS FOR 2013

Robie Cagle — President
801-676-9481

Kelly Finegan — Vice Pres
801-636-1190

Bruce Griggs — Sec.
801-703-4081

Eldon Farnsworth — Treas.
801-550-5460

Don Swain — Medals
801-652-0124

David Larsen — Curator
801-637-1060

Ben Green — Asst. Sec.
801-982-0798

Doug Nyholm — Newslet.
801-918-9522

Bob Campbell — Bourse
801-467-8636

BOARD MEMBERS FOR 2013

Lavar Burton
801-255-1629

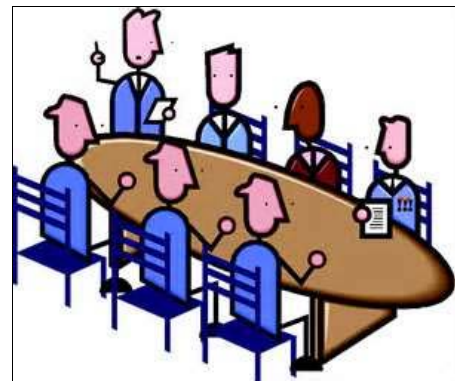
Tom Davis
801-273-7519

Lee McKenzie
801-349-6838

Larry Kimura
801-282-2333

Phil Clark
801-523-9199

Ralph Mueller
801-581-0991



YOUNG NUMISMATICS

THE JOYS OF COLLECTING TO SATISFY OUR SPECIAL INTERESTS

When my hard copy of COIN WORLD arrives each week, one of the first articles I read is The Joys of Collecting written by Q. David Bowers. A well known and respected numismatist, his articles always provide excellent food for thought and quite often highlight his special collecting interests explaining what, why and how he has satisfied those interests. The bottom line, in most of his articles, is he collects what he enjoys and what interests him. I believe that most of us have special interest areas that would allow us to collect many numismatic items related either directly or indirectly to our primary coin collecting interests. I know I do, and now I would like to share some of my special interest areas with you.

Like most numismatists, I started out as a coin collector when I was a youth. For the first twenty years, I collected nothing but U. S. coins. Basically, it was all I could afford to do. When I graduated from college and was commissioned an officer in the U.S. Air Force, I knew I wanted to make military service a career and would probably get a chance to travel to foreign lands and wanted to do what my dad had done which was to collect the coinage in use in the countries he visited. As a pilot, I got that opportunity and was able to add coins from Taiwan, South Vietnam, Thailand, Canada, Denmark, and Norway to my coin collection. In Vietnam, I was also able to develop some interest in Military Pay Certificates (MPC) and military tokens. As a career military officer, I am also interested in numismatic items that commemorate significant events and people in military aviation history and Native American participation. Most of these items are bronze medals produced by the U.S. Mint like the Tuskegee Airmen medal and the Navajo Code Talkers medal.

Another area that has been a major part of my adult life has been my service as an adult Scouter with the Boy Scouts of America and especially the Order of the Arrow

(OA) and its Native American program. Scouting has issued a significant number of numismatic type items over the years and I am proud to say that some of them are also in my numismatic collection. I guess at some point, decades ago, I became a numismatist rather than just a coin collector.

Since joining the UNS a few years ago, my numismatic activities and interests have really increased as I work on a Morgan

ence of Philippine leper colony special coinage for use on Culion Island Leper Colony. I am trying to assemble a set of all coins minted in the first year, 1913, and finding it a pleasant challenge due to low mintage, varieties, and scarcity. Originally minted in aluminum, many did not survive due to environmental conditions. The latest addition to my Philippine collection has been a Battle of Manila Bay commemorative medallion made from the propeller of



Dollar series set; an expanded variety U.S. Type Set, 1800 to present; and genealogically based year set collection. In building the latter, I did my dad's year set with Philippine coins since that was where he was born. Researching Philippine coinage eventually led to assembling a type set for the period when the Philippines were part of the United States and includes commemorative coins recovered from Manila Bay after World War II as well as General Douglas MacArthur commemorative coins issued shortly after the Philippines became an independent nation. Knowing of my interest in Philippine coinage, Bob Campbell was able to introduce me to Philippine Victory notes as another area of special interest and Ralph Mueller has sparked an interest in wartime currency. As I continued my Philippine research, I stumbled on the exist-

the U.S.S. Olympia, which served as Admiral (Commodore) Dewey's flagship during the Spanish-American War.

Without question, our numismatic pursuits can and will reveal areas of special interest and what we do with them is our choice. For me, the new Code Talkers series of medals honoring all the nations and tribes who supported our war efforts will receive special attention as will the Five Star General commemorative coinage. I also plan on continuing my efforts to upgrade my Philippine based collection and learn more about Vietnam era military tokens. My question for you is, what are your special interest areas and what will you do with them?

PHIL CLARK

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

**PO BOX 65054
SALT LAKE CITY
UT 84165**

**MINT MASTER EDITOR
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@COMCAST.NET**

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SUGGESTIONS, AND
WRITTEN ARTICLES ARE
ALWAYS WELCOME AND
APPRECIATED**

APPLICATION FOR MEMBERSHIP / UTAH NUMISMATIC SOCIETY

NAME(S) OF APPLICANT(S)

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HOW WOULD YOU LIKE TO RECEIVE THE NEWSLETTER?

- ☐ EMAIL - PREFERRED
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SPONOR: _____

WHEN & WHERE WE MEET

**SECOND TUESDAY OF EACH MONTH AT 7:00 PM
COLUMBUS COMMUNITY CENTER
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ANNUAL DUES:

- ☐ FAMILY \$30
☐ ADULT (18 AND OLDER) \$20
☐ JUNIOR \$5

